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## TO BE LODGE'S AIDE

## 'Old Asia Hand' Going Back

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When Henry Cabot Lodge goes to Saigon for his second tour as ambassador, he will

take with him Edward G. Lansdale, a retired Air Force general who is an old Asian hand and shares his belief that not only a war but a social revolution must be won in South Viet Nam.

Lansdale, in turn, will take with him a handful of people described as "having a very unselfish affection for the Vietnamese people to help the Americans in organizations and agencies out there to do things that will really help the Vietnamese people."

The general, who is widely regarded as the prototype of the harmonica-playing Col. Hillandale of "The Ugly American," is a diffident, reticent but articulate man who genuinely regrets the legend and controversy that have grown up around his remarkable and unconventional service in the Far East.

His return to Viet Nam, where he served in the early days of the Diem regime, may be bad news to bureaucratic careerists who hate corner-cutting.

But it is also an indication that the Johnson administration has come down hard on the side that says that dollars and hardware are not enough to win.

Lansdale's reputation was forged in the Philippines, where he served officially as a member of the Joint U.S. Military Advisory Group, but actually as a friend and almost brother of Ramon Magsaysay, then the secretary of defense, who was later president of the Philippines.

During the Communist Huk rebellion in 1950-1952, the then Col. Lansdale functioned in an

unorthodox but highly effective manner, travelling through the hills as a one-man good-will mission.

He told Magsaysay, and he later told the Special Warfare School in an address in 1962, that the principal method of binding the people to the government was for the government to insure the people that they could sleep at night.

"If you cannot protect farmers and workers in their daily tasks, the economy stagnates, and your side is weakened further. All the fine strategy, planning, training, manpower, equipment, supplies and fiscal help are meaningless without this protection."

## Same Problem in Viet Nam

This, of course is precisely the problem in Saigon, where terrorists still roll grenades into restaurants and bars.

Lansdale served in Viet Nam for three and a half years, arriving simultaneously with Premier Ngo Dinh Diem, to whom he became friend, confidante and adviser. When he left in 1956, he thought the Diem regime was a going concern.

Speaking to the cadets of the Air Force Academy, he recalled Diem's plea to an American adviser who was going out to observe a competent and incorruptible but involved general.

"Please teach him how to love the people. You know the way you do, as an American."

Upon his return to the U.S., Lansdale served several rather lonely years in the Pentagon, for a time as deputy special assistant to Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara on special

operations, which is to say counter-insurgency.

The CIA, the State Department and the Joint Chiefs of Staff were somewhat understandably baffled by the Lansdale explanation of counter-insurgency.

From his speeches and reports it does not emerge as a kind of James Bond cloak and dagger operation with hair-breadth escapes and bold plots. It comes out more as Jeffersonian idealism, applied Christianity and political common sense.

Lansdale does not speak any language but English. He says the Asians have a highly developed "personal radar" which makes communication not only possible but instantaneous.

He and Lodge have found they speak the same language. Basically it is a common belief that our most valuable export is our tradition.

What Lansdale learned during his wanderings in the Asian bush and hamlets was that the people did not so much envy our material wealth as the trust we exhibited in each other. When we have given them all that we can in the way of tangible aid, they still want to know the secret of that trust which makes our system work.

The problems of Viet Nam are horrendous. Almost every idea has been tried, almost every one has failed. But Ambassador Lodge has a mandate to bring the military, economic, social, political and informational stands together for a new kind of war for Americans.

In Lansdale, Lodge has a helper with a record of successful contact with individual Asians and an unwavering belief in the common man of Southeast Asia.

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